

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6179

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 0767

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GKI

TAGS: ENRG, SA

SUBJECT: CHURCH COMMITTEE ATTACKS ON THE ADMINISTRATION AND
THE DEPARTMENT

1. I HAVE BEEN READING VARIOUS REPORTS OF THE CHURCH
COMMITTEE SUB-COMMITTEE HEARING AND AM SOMEWHAT CONFUSED.
ON ONE HAND THE CHURCH GROUP SEEMS TO BE ATTACKING THE
DEPARTMENT FOR ASKING JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO GIVE THE OIL
COMPANIES BUSINESS REVIEW LETTERS. CHURCH SEEMS TO
THINK THAT THIS WAS AN UNWARRANTED TWISTING IF NOT A
BREAKING OF THE LAW. ON THE OTHER HAND, CRITICISIM SEEMS
ALSO TO BE THAT WE DID NOT ALLOW (OR ENCOURAGE) THE COM-
PANIES TO FACE OPEC AS A UNIT, IN OTHER WORDS THAT WE DID
NOT GIVE THEM EVEN BROADER ANTI-TRUST "CLEARANCE."

2. IN FACT, OF COURSE, WE WOULD HAVE FAVORED THEIR
MEETING OPEC AS A UNIT IF IT WOULD HAVE DONE ANY GOOD.
WE THOUGHT AT THE TIME, AND NOTHING HAS HAPPENED SINCE
TO CAUSE US TO AMEND THIS OPINION, THAT IN ANY JOINT OPEC
MEETING THE MODERATES WOULD HAVE HAD TO FOLLOW THE
LEAD OF THE RADICALS AND THE SETTLEMENTS WOULD HAVE
BEEN MUCH WORSE THAN THEY ACTUALLY WERE.

3. I AM OF COURSE STUNG BY THE REPETITION BY CONGRESS
OF THE OLD ADELMAN CHARGE THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT
WAS WOEFULLY UNINFORMED AND UNPREPARED. IN FACT IT
WAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT, BEFORE ANY OTHER BRANCH OF
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GOVERNMENT, AND CERTAINLY WELL BEFORE THE ISSUE HAD
ANY ATTRACTION TO CONGRESS WHICH POINTED OUT: A) THE
NECESSITY OF INTERNATIONAL CONSUMER COOPERATION;
B) THE DANGERS OF RELIANCE ON IMPORTED OIL; C) THE

NECESSITY TO DECREASE THE RATE OF GROWTH IN DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION;AND D) THE NECESSITY OF INCREASING DOMESTIC PRODUCTION. WE HAVE AMPLE DOCUMENTATION OF THIS AND HOPE SOMEONE FROM THE DEPARTMENT COULD SIT DOWN WITH SENATOR CHURCH AND HIS FELLOW SENATORS, SHOW THEM ALL OUR MATERIAL AND ASK THEM WHAT THEY ARE TRYING TO DO.

4. THIS, OF COURSE, ASSUMES THAT CHURCH'S PURPOSE IS TO UNCOVER FACTS, NOT MERELY TO EMBARRASS THE ADMINISTRATION. IF IT IS THE LATTER, WHICH I FEAR, THEN I SUPPOSE THERE IS VERY LITTLE WE CAN DO EXCEPT KEEP QUIET; OR WE COULD PUBLISH THE DOCUMENTATION - A COURSE I NOW STRONGLY FAVOR.

AKINS

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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